



POLICE COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BETHEL POLICE COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, JUL 20, 2016
MUNICIPAL CENTER, 1 SCHOOL ST MEETING ROOM "B"

ATTENDING: CHAIRMAN MIKE DUFF
COMMISSIONER ANTHONY RUBINO
COMMISSIONER RICHARD KOLWICZ
COMMISSIONER AMY MANNION
CHIEF JEFFREY FINCH

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER RICHARD BARTON

ATTENDANCE: Police Officers 1
Citizens 0

RECEIVED

2016 JUL 25 A 11:30

TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

Chairman Duff opened the meeting at 6:03 p.m.
The Commission pledged allegiance to the flag.

1. Public Input
None
2. Review of Past Minutes
Motion by Comm Kolwicz to accept the minutes of 6/16/16; seconded by Comm Rubino
– unanimous.
3. Budget Report
 - a) Comptrollers Report
Chief Finch stated that the report is still not at the fiscal year end so the budget is not closed out as yet. Comms Rubino, Mannion and Kolwicz questioned line items from various accounts.
 - b) Overtime Report
In response to Comm Mannion's question concerning year-to-date numbers, Chief Finch stated that the totals are through May with June still to be added. Chief Finch also noted in this year's budget, overtime was spelled out more clearly between dispatch and police with the actual amounts expected to be spent listed.
4. Old Business
 - a) Monthly Reports
Chairman Duff while noting nothing unusual in the reports, expressed concern over the media's "hyping" attacks on police officers. The Commission discussed this issue.
5. New Business

a) Site Plan – Rt58 Gas Station

Lt Dickinson described this as a doubling of the size of the existing station. Sight lines are good with no traffic issues. Because Rt58 is a State road the State D.O.T. will have to review the plan.

Motion by Comm Mannion to accept the Rt58 Gas Station site plan; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.

b) Rt6 – Farms Site Plan

The State Traffic Engineer is asking for a concurrence with detailed requirements for this previously reviewed office building project on 36 Stony Hill Rd, between Bethel Handyman and McNeil Rd. Lt Dickinson reports seeing no problems and recommends the Commission concur with the State's plans. Comm Rubino asked about the closing off of McNeil Rd. Lt Dickinson stated that it is still in the Town's future plans.

Motion by Comm Kolwicz that the Commission accept the recommendations of the State Traffic Commission for the property at 36 Stony Hill Rd; seconded by Comm Rubino – unanimous.

c) Durant Av Signs

Lt Dickinson's letter mentioned MUTCD (Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices) used by the State for traffic design and engineering in referencing the signage height on Durant Av (see Commission minutes 6/16/16 New Business). While the sign height is correct they were turned sideways, a problem now corrected according to the Lieutenant. The one blocked by a dead tree will be visible when Highway cuts the tree down.

d) New Dispatcher Pay Grade

The fully certified dispatcher, recently hired at pay step 1 should be upgraded to pay step 2 according to Chief Finch based upon her certification, experience and demonstrated ability. This would give her a pay slightly more than she was receiving at Danbury.

Motion by Comm Mannion to raise the aforementioned dispatcher to pay step 2; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.

e) Policy – Firearms Ch5 Sec3

Last year's CALEA certification involved discussion of off-duty carrying of firearms. The ensuing policy left a question mark in many officer's minds about whether they would be covered if they used their firearm of choice for law enforcement. Since it is expected that an officer be able to help in these situations, the policy has been changed consistent with that of other departments certifying and qualifying the officer with their own firearm. More standards need yet to be established. The changes considered here concern ammunition and firearm platform.

Motion by Chairman Duff to accept Chief Finch's changes to Firearms Ch5 Sec3 as presented; seconded by Comm Rubino – unanimous.

6. Correspondence

• Mr B. Walters

In his letter Mr Walters complained about the intersection of Shelter Rock and Walnut Hill, speeding and cars not stopping for signs. Chief Finch mentioned changes to the intersection which have been made and promised additional selective enforcement.

- Shannon Flanagan

Letter of thanks for a \$1000 scholarship issued by the PBA.

7. Police Building

Small changes in the plans were discussed in a meeting with the contractor. Hope is for an October start.

8. Chief's Report

- Car Cameras

In the decision between car and body cameras, the decision was made in favor of car cameras for the present time. The Chief sees the Department as not yet ready for body cameras. The cost is high as is the necessary infrastructure such as computer storage. In consultation with the Town of Darien, having allowed \$70K per year for body cameras, existing problems could in the end not justify the expense. The same is true of Bethel. Much controversy continues with body cameras, whether and when to record. If in the future body cameras become necessary, they will work with the car cameras.

9. Commissioner Comments

Comm Mannion stated she must respond to a Main St resident's complaint than resident installed no parking signs were taken down. Lt Dickinson stated that those signs were never approved. "Do Not Block Driveway" signs would solve those resident's problems and he will look into this.

Chairman Duff reported that the necessary Charter revision to allow Police Commission meetings to be held in the Police Department requires the formation of a Charter Commission and a referendum vote which will not happen soon due to its \$15K to \$20K cost. If and when it does happen it will be when there are additional Charter issues to consider.

10. Executive Session

- Investigation

At 7:05, motion by Comm Kolwicz to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing an ongoing investigation and invite Chief Finch and Captain Pugner to attend; seconded by Comm Mannion – unanimous.

At 7:30 the Commission came out of executive session.

At 7:31 motion by Comm Kolwicz to adjourn; seconded by Comm Rubino – unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ferdinand Miller Jr
Secretary